



The Aruba Hi-Winds celebrate twenty years of windsurfing history

The Aruba Hi-Winds Pro-Am Windsurfing Championships has been bringing top athletes from around the world to Aruba's shores, and this year is a very special event, as the organizers celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the world-renowned competition.

It will be a full week of great wind-surfing action and celebration and the public is invited to come watch it all from Moomba Beach Bar and Fisherman's Huts starting on Thursday June 29 after registration on Wednesday. JP van den Eerenbeemt, President of the Hi-Winds Committee, joined by Patrick Melchior, General Manager of the distributors of Amstel Bright and Heineken, sponsors for the event announced the schedule and extended the invitation to the public at Moomba Beach on Monday afternoon.

Anthony Block and Ruben Croes began the first Hi-Winds tournament twenty years ago, and they did such a good job of organizing a fun, professional event that the Professional Boardsailing Association (PBA) made it a part of their 1988 World Tour. It was considered by many as one of the top windsurfing events of the year as Aruba offers unique conditions for the sport, and it brought famous professional windsurfers to Aruba's shores. Since 1997 it has focused on being an amateur event, and has offered an opportunity for some local talent to develop, such as Sarah-Quita Offringa, who at only fourteen is now competing worldwide and is ranked #19 in the Freestyle by the Professional Windsurfers Association. Recently, the thrilling sport of Kitesurfing has been added to the roster of competition, bringing a new crop of competitors from Bonaire, Curacao, Venezuela, Holland, British Virgin Island, the USA and Canada. Organizers have planned a very special week of day and night events in celebration of the anniversary. They invite the public to join them in particular for Sunday's "Bright Beach Party" at the Fisherman's Huts starting at 3:00 P.M and lasting until well after dark. There will be a Beach Volley Ball Competition and a fashion show by BULA, amongst other fun activities while one of Aruba's top DJ's rocks the beach, along with plenty of Amstel Bright to keep the party going. On Saturday evening there will be a reunion party on the beach with an exposition of memorabilia titled "20 years for the Aruba Hi-Winds." Each day from Thursday June 29 until the final awards dinner on July 3 spectators are welcome to come and watch great windsurfing and kitesurfing action with over 100 competitors beginning at 10:00 AM. For more information about participating, contact JP at 586-3940; to follow the action and results check their website www.aruba-hiwinds.org.